574 Lolo families would kill chicken and sheep to entertain us.
[231] Instead of stabbing the chicken with a knife, they would wring its neck with their hands until it suffocated to death. After
252 having seared off its feathers over a fire, they would boil it, roast it, or make soup with it. If they killed a sheep, they
[281] would always flay the skin very dexterously and use it to make a tobacco pouch or bag. The meat is carved into large pieces and cooked together with the bones. Only a little salt is added
[263] so that the taste is extremely light. As salt is very scarce in the region, the Lolo consider it as something precious. They
264 serve mutton in a broad-mouthed and flat-bottomed wooden
[415] bowl, often painted with pictures. The Lolo sit on the floor when eating. Rich black Lolo families would entertain their
[352] honored guests around a small round wooden table, about a half foot from the ground and two feet in diameter. At a feast given us by Ta-chi's family, they used this kind of small table on which were placed mutton, rice, and other food. The Lolo did not eat with us. At every meal there were four groups: the members of the inspection team, considered as honored guests, formed a group at the rear side of the stove; the black Lolo master and his family lined up on the left side; the hired laborers of our team, including the Han-Chinese or Lolo carriers, formed another group on the right side; the last group consisted of the black Lolo's household slaves. The last two groups might mingle with one another, but the hosts and guests always formed separate groups and never mixed with the white Lolo or the household slaves. From the Lolo point of view, members of the inspection team were equal to Chinese nobles and had the same status as the black Lolo.

574 According to Lolo custom, the food should not be en-
[264] joyed alone, but by all who belong to the household, even the slaves. Every time the Lolo killed a sheep to entertain us, it was shared by ten and more persons so that after the meal nothing was left of the animal. At the end of each meal they
[321] would sit around the stove and talk for a long while before dispersing. They engage in an almost endless conversation when there are guests to be entertained or when neighbors come to call after the master has just returned from a trip. When Ta-chi accompanied us to the village of San-ho-i-ta, visitors came almost continuously for the first day. Ta-chi would en-
273 tertain them all with wine, using wooden bowls as wine cups. The Lolo are fond of drinking, which has become a habit. Whether men or women, old or young, they all have a large capacity and can empty several cups at one draught. While distilled liquor is imported from the Han-Chinese region, the